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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,753	01/11/2002	Donna Joy Guinn	98500/1098	9674

7590 07/18/2003

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EXAMINER

KUMAR, PREETI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1751

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/045,753	GUINN, DONNA JOY
	Examiner Preeti Kumar	Art Unit 1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Non-Final Rejection

1. Claims 1-13 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Caldwell (US 5,004,643).

Caldwell teaches a process for treating a porous web (especially fabric) to produce a novel silicone polymer internally coated web. In the process, a starting curable liquid silicone polymer is coated under pressure upon one surface of the web, and the web is then subjected to localized shear forces sufficient to move the silicone polymer composition into interior portions of the web and to distribute the silicone polymer composition generally uniformly there within in such planar region. Excess silicone polymer composition is wiped away from a web surface. Thereafter, the resulting web is heated or irradiated to cure the silicone polymer. Preferably a web is preliminarily impregnated with a fluorochemical. Webs procuded by this process are breathable, waterproof or highly water repellent, and flexible. See abstract.

Specifically regarding claim 7, Caldwell teaches two principal classes of substrates having open pores or cells may be utilized in the present invention: leathers (including natural leathers, and man-made or synthetic leathers), and foamed plastic sheets (or films) having open cells. See col.7, ln.59-63.

Specifically regarding claims 2 and 8, Caldwell teaches that the fluorochemical weight add-on is typically in the range of about 0.01 to about 5% of the weight of the untreated web. After fluorochemical impregnation, the web is preferably squeezed to remove excess fluorochemical composition after which the web is heated or otherwise dried to evaporate carrier liquid. See col.10, ln.30-37.

Specifically regarding claims 3-5 and 9-11, Caldwell teaches that by overcoating the original impregnant with a dilute or very thin second or top coat, a more tightly cross linked impregnated or enveloped product may be achieved, or

surface properties of the product can be varied or improved. For example, the top coating can comprise a dilute dispersion of a fluorochemical fabric treating composition. In a web treated therewith, such treatment enhances surface properties of the web, such as by increasing grease or chemical penetration resistance, or soil resistance, or the like. The dilute fluorochemical dispersion can be applied by spraying, misting, or the like. Both treating agents then enter a curing stage, which can be accomplished conveniently by passing the treated web through an oven wherein the temperature and web residence time are sufficient to cure both the fluorochemical and silicone polymer pregnants to a desired extent, or by radiation. See col.31, ln.69 to col.32, ln.18. In examples 21 and 29, Caldwell illustrates a water repellency spray testing textile treated by the process highlighted above. See col.47-48 and col.53-54. Caldwell teach that the process of the invention was done in an environmental chamber which was held at 104 degrees F. Accordingly, the broad teachings of Caldwell appear to anticipate the material limitations of the instant claims.

6. Claims 6, and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caldwell (US 5,004,643) as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 9-11 above.

Caldwell is relied upon as set forth above. However Caldwell does not specifically teach the ratio of the dilution as recited by the instant claims.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, with a reasonable expectation of success to dilute the pre-cured silicone emulsion in the ratios recited by the instant claims because the teachings

of Caldwell provide motivation to dilute the pre-cured silicone emulsion for the beneficial use as a top coat to more tightly cross link the impregnated the silicone polymer.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Remaining references cited but not relied upon are considered to be cumulative to or less pertinent than those relied upon or discussed above.

Applicant is reminded that any evidence to be presented in accordance with 37 CFR 1.131 or 1.132 should be submitted before final rejection in order to be considered timely.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Preeti Kumar whose telephone number is 703-305-0178. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 703-308-4708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-872-9309.


Preeti Kumar
YOGENDRA N. GUPTA Examiner
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER Art Unit 1751
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700